



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## *EDITORIAL.*

---

THE attendance at the Detroit meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was notably smaller than usual, a result doubtless due in part to the meeting of the British Association at Toronto which followed at such an interval as to invite busy men to select the one at the expense of the other. The attendance upon the geological section was also adversely affected by the International Congress at St. Petersburg. The papers presented, however, were perhaps even more than usually important and interesting. The location of the meeting naturally invited an unusual number of papers relative to the problems of the Great Lake Basins and these easily took precedence. The widest popular interest was undoubtedly called forth by Mr. Gilbert's announcement of a definite tilting of the area of the lake basins towards the southwest. His deduction that the rate of change amounted to five inches per hundred miles per century, and his prophecy that at a specified date the drainage would be reversed, Niagara abandoned, and Detroit and Chicago flooded, naturally created something akin to a sensation in the great cities of the lakes. Incidentally this contribution to prophetic geology is having a good effect in removing the too wide impression that geology is a science of the ancient earth. The present and future belong to it as much as the past. The activity of recent years in current geomorphy is helping to awaken an appreciation of contemporaneous geology. A few decisive predictions will doubtless establish the value of prognostic geology.

This is not the first time that Mr. Gilbert has essayed the rôle of geological prophet, but it is, we believe, the first instance in which he has given us a definite time factor which holds out

the prospect that we may be able to bring him face to face with his responsibilities at a fixed day of fulfillment, though his dates are inconveniently distant. A prophecy which definitely courts a test of its accuracy by giving dates and amounts has a grateful moral flavor. The prospect of honor for fulfillment and punishment for failure is equitably distributed. Writing from this doomed locality we cannot lay claim to that indifference to results which is the prerequisite of complete impartiality in weighing the merits of the prophecy, but we have this comforting alternative that whatever the outcome we shall be able either to rejoice in the triumph of a friend or else join in the laugh of our neighbors at his failure.

\* \* \*

ONE of the features of especial interest at the Detroit meeting was the joint session of the anthropological and geological sections for the discussion of the relics of man found on the Delaware at Trenton, N. J., participated in by Putnam, Knapp, Kummel, Wright, Holmes, Mercer, Wilson and Salisbury. Previous to the meeting all of these participants had visited the ground where excavation under the direction of Professor Putnam has been for some time in progress, and were thus armed with fresh facts from personal observation. The good influence of the "higher criticism" was manifest in the great care obviously taken in making and presenting the observations and in the critical and cautious attitudes assumed in their interpretation. The discussion was an altogether admirable one and formed an important episode in the progress of anthropic geology in this country. The discussion was essentially confined to the interpretation of a surface bed of sand three or four feet thick embracing scattered pebbles and irregular seams of ferruginous and silty materials, and of the artifacts found in it. This superficial bed rests upon the glacial gravels and lies on the brink of the terrace which overlooks the Delaware bottoms. The geological discussion centered upon the origin of this sandy deposit. The majority opinion and the weight of evidence seemed on the whole to favor a wind origin. No substantial evidence that it was of glacial or glacio-fluvial

origin, or that it was contemporaneous with any part of the ice age was presented. The anthropological discussion centered upon the question whether any civilization different from that of the early Algonkian Indians was shown by the relics. The former contention that the base of the deposit only carries argillite artifacts, while the upper carries quartz and jasper flakes also, was weakened by the reporting of a few jasper and quartz chips from the lower part. The hypothesis that the artifacts are palæolithic was weakened by the discovery of a small arrowhead in the heart of the deposit. On the whole the discussion seemed to leave the general impression that the evidence of any very ancient or very primitive form of civilization at this locality is of a quite slender and doubtful nature. The hypothesis of a glacial man was scarcely in serious discussion although incidentally alluded to, there being no proof that the beds are of glacial age. No new evidence of relics in the undoubted glacio-fluvial beds below was presented.

\* \* \*

At the Toronto meeting a similar joint session was held at which the broader subject of ancient man in America was discussed. The added point of interest there was the attitude of the British geologists and archæologists who are familiar with the character of the evidence in Europe where the antiquity of man is not seriously questioned. Their general disposition toward the evidence presented was that of marked conservatism. The foreign anthropologists and geologists seemed keenly alive to the inherent incongruities and self-destructive aspects of much of the supposed evidence for the great antiquity of man in America.

The influence of the two discussions will be very wholesome both within and without scientific circles.

The geological papers presented at the meeting of the British Association at Toronto were notable for the wide range of their themes and their high order of excellence. T. C. C.

\* \* \*

Papers offered at the Detroit meeting of the Geological Society of America, August 10, 1897:

"The Granite Mountain Area of Burnet County, Texas." By FREDERIC W. SIMONDS, Austin, Texas.

"Exposures near Detroit of Helderberg Limestone and Associated Gypsum, Salt and Sandstones." By W. H. SHERZER, Ypsilanti, Mich.

"Notes on the Geology of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan." By ALFRED C. LANE, Houghton, Mich.

"The Nomenclature of the Carboniferous Formations of Texas." By ROBERT T. HILL, Washington, D. C.

"Stratigraphy and Structure of the Puget Group, Washington." By BAILEY WILLIS, Washington, D. C.

"The Loess as a Land Deposit." By J. A. UDDEN, Rock Island, Ill.

"Ice-transported Boulders in Coal Seams." By EDWARD ORTON, Columbus, O.

"Clay veins Vertically Intersecting Coal Measures." By W. S. GRESLEY, Erie, Pa.

"Analogy Between Declivities of Land and Submarine Valleys." By J. W. SPENCER, Washington, D. C.

"Great Changes of Level in Mexico and the Interoceanic Connections." By J. W. SPENCER, Washington, D. C.

\* \* \*

Papers offered at the Session of the Geological Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Detroit, August 11-13, 1897:

Address of VICE-PRESIDENT WHITE. Subject: "The Pittsburg Coal Bed."

"The Geological Age and Fauna of the Huerfano Basin in Southern Colorado." By PROFESSOR HENRY F. OSBORN, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

"An Account of the Researches relating to the Great Lakes." By DR. J. W. SPENCER, Washington, D. C.

"Lake Chicago and the Chicago Outlet." By FRANK LEVERETT, U. S. Geological Survey, Denmark, Ia.

"The Lower Abandoned Beaches of Southeastern Michigan." By FRANK B. TAYLOR, Fort Wayne, Ind.

"Some Features of the Recent Geology around Detroit." By FRANK B. TAYLOR, Fort Wayne, Ind.

"Recent Earth Movement in the Great Lake Region." By G. K. GILBERT, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

"Preglacial Topography and Drainage of Central-Western, New York." By PROFESSOR H. L. FAIRCHILD, University of Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.

"A Supplementary Hypothesis respecting the Origin of the American Loess." By PROFESSOR T. C. CHAMBERLIN, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

"Progress of Hydrographic Investigations of the U. S. Geological Survey." By F. H. NEWELL, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

"Stylolites." By PROFESSOR T. C. HOPKINS, State College, Centre Co. Pa.

"A suggestion in regard to the Theory of Volcanoes." By PROFESSOR WILLIAM NORTH RICE, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn.

"The Ores and Minerals of Cripple Creek, Colorado." By H. P. PARMALEE, Charlevoix, Mich.

"Observations on the Genus *Barrattia*." By PROFESSOR R. P. WHITFIELD, American Museum Natural History, New York, N. Y.

"Ice Jams and what they Accomplish in Geology." By DR. M. A. VEEDER, Lyons, N. Y.